CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed electronically with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the below date:

Date: March 18, 2008 Name: Amir N. Penn Reg. No. 40,767 Signature: _____

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. of:	Toshiyasu YABE et al.	
Appln. No.:	10/519,199	Examiner: Patel, Ashokkumar B.
Filed:	December 17, 2004	Art Unit: 2154
For:	ELECTRONIC MAIL DELIVERY SYSTEM, MAIL SERVER, AND MAIL CLIENT	Confirmation No. 4783

Attorney Docket No: 9683/221(PCT-3188US)

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION MAILED OCTOBER 26, 2007

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In reply to the Non-Final Office Action dated October 26, 2007, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An e-mail processing method comprising:

sending, from a mail server for performing a mail delivery process to mail clients, mail attribute information indicating an attribute of an e-mail for the mail client in a data format, the data format enabling said mail client to display the mail attribute information by executing a document browsing program;

receiving, in the mail client, the mail attribute information transmitted from the mail server, and displaying the received mail attribute information in accordance with the document browsing program;

accepting, in the mail client, an operation to select an e-mail selected by a user from among e-mails corresponding to the displayed mail attribute information;

sending from the mail client to the mail server, identification information for identifying an e-mail selected by the user;

receiving in the mail server, the identification information transmitted from the mail client, and sending to the mail client, predetermined character strings for instructing the mail client to process data transmitted from the mail server to the mail client in accordance with an e-mail processing program, prior to or along with sending an e-mail specified by the identification information;

when receiving the predetermined character strings transmitted from the mail server, storing, in accordance with [[an]] the e-mail processing program by the mail client in a nonvolatile memory, [[an]] the e-mail transmitted from the mail server.

2. (Previously Presented) An e-mail delivery method according to Claim 1, further comprising:

receiving, in the mail client, an instruction to suspend delivery from the mail server of an e-mail selected from among the displayed e-mails, and sending from the mail client identification information for specifying the selected e-mail to the mail server;

wherein the mail server receives identification information transmitted from the mail client, and in the next mail attribute sending step, sends mail attribute information of an e-mail whose delivery is to be suspended, the e-mail being specified by the identification information.

3. (Previously Presented) An e-mail delivering method according to Claim 1,

wherein the mail server and the mail client mutually send and receive data in accordance with a hyper text transfer protocol; and the predetermined character strings are written in a header of a hyper text transfer protocol.

4. (Previously Presented) An e-mail delivering method according to Claim 1,

wherein the mail server and the mail client mutually send and receive data in accordance with a hyper text transfer protocol; and

the mail client, in the step of sending identification information, sends to the mail server identification information for specifying the selected e-mail by using a POST method of a hyper text transfer protocol.

5. (Previously Presented) An e-mail delivering method according to Claim 1,

wherein the mail server and the mail client mutually send and receive data in accordance with a hyper text transfer protocol; and when the mail server sends to the mail client the predetermined character strings prior to sending an e-mail identified by the identification information, the mail client requests the mail server to transmit the e-mail by transmitting a request to the mail server, the request using a GET method of a hyper text transfer protocol.

6. (Previously Presented) An e-mail delivering method according to Claim 5,

wherein when sending the e-mail to the mail client, the mail server writes in a header of a hyper text transfer protocol in a predetermined order identification information for identifying an e-mail to be transmitted this time, and identification information for identifying an e-mail to be transmitted subsequently and transmits them to the mail client; and

the mail client writes in a request header of a hyper text transfer protocol in a predetermined order, the two pieces of identification information written in a header of the received hyper text transfer protocol, and requests the mail server to send the e-mail to be subsequently transmitted by transmitting a request header of a hyper text transfer protocol to the mail server; and the mail server identifies an e-mail to be sent on the basis of the predetermined

order of the two pieces of identification information in a request header of the received hyper text transfer protocol, and sends the specified e-mail to the mail client.

7. (Currently Amended) A mail server for performing a mail delivering process to a mail client[[;]], the mail server comprising:

an attribute information sending unit configured to send to the mail client mail attribute information in a displayable data format enabling the mail client to indicate the e-mail attribute information in accordance with a document browsing program, the mail attribute information indicating an e-mail attribute for the mail client;

an identification information reception unit configured to receive identification information of an e-mail transmitted from the mail client; and

a character string sending unit configured to send to the mail client, predetermined character strings for instructing the mail client to process data transmitted from the mail server to the mail client in accordance with an e-mail processing program, prior to or along with sending an e-mail specified by the identification information.

8. (Previously Presented) A mail server according to Claim 7,

wherein the mail server is configured to send and receive data with the mail client in accordance with a hyper text transfer protocol; and the character string sending unit is configured to send the predetermined character strings to the mail client by writing the predetermined character strings in a header of a hyper text transfer protocol.

9. (Currently Amended) A mail client which receives e-mails from a mail server[[;]], the mail client comprising:

an attribute information reception unit configured to receive, mail attribute information transmitted from the mail server, the mail attribute information indicating an e-mail attribute for the mail client;

a display unit configured to display the received mail attribute information by following the processes written in a document browsing program;

an accepting unit configured to accept an operation to select an e-mail selected by a user from among e-mails corresponding to the displayed mail attribute information;

an identification information sending unit configured to send from the mail client to the mail server, identification information for identifying an e-mail selected by the user; and

a storing device configured to, upon receiving predetermined character strings transmitted from the mail server, store, in accordance with an e-mail processing program by the mail client in a nonvolatile memory, an e-mail transmitted from the mail server.

10. (Previously Presented) A mail client according to Claim 9,

wherein the mail client is configured to send and receive data with the mail client in accordance with a hyper text transfer protocol; and the identification information sending unit is configured to send to the mail server identification information for specifying the selected e-mail by using a POST method of a hyper text transfer protocol.

11. (Previously Presented) A mail client according to Claim 9,

wherein the mail server and the mail client are configured to mutually send and receive data in accordance with a hyper text transfer protocol, and the mail server is configured to send to the mail client the predetermined character strings prior to sending an e-mail identified by the identification information; the mail client comprising,

the mail client includes a requesting unit configured to request- the mail server to transmit the e-mail by transmitting a request to the mail server, the request using a GET method of a hyper text transfer protocol.

REMARKS

Status of case

Claims 1-11 are currently pending in this case. Claims 1, 7, and 9 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,661,877 B1 (Lee) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,505,237 B2 (Beyda).

As acknowledged in the Office Action, "Lee fails to teach sending to said mail client, predetermined character strings for instructing said mail client to process data transmitted from the mail server to said mail client in accordance with an e-mail processing program, prior to or along with sending an e-mail specified by the identification information when receiving predetermined character strings transmitted from predetermined character strings, storing, in accordance with an e-mail processing program by said mail client in a nonvolatile memory, an e-mail transmitted from said mail server." See claim 1; see also claim 7 ("a character string sending unit configured to send to the mail client, predetermined character strings for instructing the mail client to process data transmitted from the mail server to the mail client in accordance with an e-mail processing program, prior to or along with sending an e-mail specified by the identification information"); claim 9 ("a storing device configured to, upon receiving predetermined character strings transmitted from the mail server, store, in accordance with an e-mail processing program by the mail client in a nonvolatile memory, an e-mail transmitted from the mail server"). The Office Action then relies on teachings in the Beyda reference to modify the teachings of the Lee reference in order to render claims 1-11 obvious.

Applicants respectfully contend that the modification proposed in the Office Action is not proper given the teachings of the Lee reference. The entire focus of the Lee reference is the storage of messages in a unified storage. For example, the Lee reference criticizes the prior art as lacking unified storage, leading to increased overall system complexity. Col. 2, lines 35-44. The Lee reference then recognizes that "there is a need for a unified solution capable of displaying and navigating through multiple types of digital electronic messages stored in a single unified message store." Col. 2, lines 45-47. To that end, the Lee reference discloses in the Summary of the

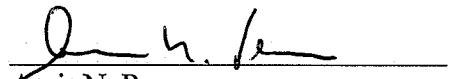
Invention "a Web based unified message inbox for accessing computer telephone messages stored in a unified message store." Col. 2, lines 54-56.

The Beyda reference, according to the Office Action, is used in order to modify the Lee reference so that the messages are stored in a non-unified manner. However, the storage of an e-mail message in a mail client as claimed in the present invention is inconsistent with the object of the Lee reference. And, Applicants contend that the proposed modification renders the Lee reference unsatisfactory for its intended purpose. See MPEP §2143.01(V); see also *In re Gordon*, 733 F.2d, 900, 221 U.S.P.Q. 1125 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Therefore, Applicants respectfully contend that one skilled in the art would not have been motivated to modify Lee reference in order to meet the limitations of the claims as recited since the modifications to the Lee reference are inconsistent with the object of the Lee reference and would render the Lee reference unsatisfactory for its intended purpose.

SUMMARY

If any questions arise or issues remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below in order to expedite disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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